

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2007

His Excellency Hu Jintao
President, People's Republic of China
c/o His Excellency Zhou Wen Zhong
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
2300 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our grave concern regarding the continued atrocities in the Darfur region of Sudan and request that you use your significant influence with the government of Sudan to ensure that it allows free conduct of humanitarian operations in Darfur and brings an end to the atrocities against innocent civilians. As the party that negotiated the inclusion of a clause to United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 1706, requiring the consent of the Sudanese Government for the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force, the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) bears a special responsibility to ensure, through decisive diplomacy and action, that President al-Bashir does provide that consent to the full implementation of phases II and III of the Addis Ababa Agreement of November 16, 2006.

The conflict waged by Sudanese government forces and government-backed Janjawid militias has driven more than 230,000 Darfuri refugees into Chad, and displaced more than 120,000 Chadians. In addition, hundreds of thousands of civilians have been killed and an estimated 2 million displaced in Darfur itself. The conflict has had particularly devastating consequences for women and children, who make up the vast majority of victims. The attacks against, and murder of, over a dozen relief workers in recent months has disrupted humanitarian operations—leaving hundreds of thousands without access to the most basic assistance.

We welcome the news that Sudan has been removed from the list of countries to which your government provides incentives for investment by Chinese businesses, and we welcome the public and private efforts you have made to encourage the government in Khartoum to accept the deployment of peacekeepers into the Darfur region. However, the PRC can and must do more.

Unfortunately, the PRC remains the largest foreign investor in Sudan and recently provided the government of Sudan an interest-free loan, worth \$17 million, to build a presidential palace. Unfortunately, the PRC has reportedly been engaged in arms sales with the government of Sudan, arms which are used by government forces and the Janjweed militia to maim and kill innocent Sudanese civilians. These actions send the wrong message to Khartoum, as does the recent cancellation of a \$70 million debt that the Sudanese Government owes to the PRC, and China's projects to rehabilitate Sudan's railways and water ports.

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We urge you to impress upon Khartoum the need to halt Sudan's military operations throughout Darfur, to withdraw Sudanese troops from the area, and to honor its commitment to accept the "heavy support package" which includes a robust African Union/UN peacekeeping force in Darfur, under a UN-appointed commander, police officers, civilian staff and humanitarian workers. These steps, at a minimum, are essential to enforce the ceasefire, protect civilians, ensure access to humanitarian assistance, and begin the path to reconstruction and reconciliation in Darfur.

We further urge that, should a resolution be put forward at the UN Security Council proposing sanctions on the government of Sudan for non-compliance with its agreements or non-cooperation with the UN peace-keeping force, you instruct your Ambassador, at the United Nations, to support the resolution by, at the very least, abstaining from voting.

Mr. President, the upcoming 2008 Beijing Olympic Games are going to be an important event for the image of the PRC. Millions of people will visit China, and over a billion people will tune into their radios and televisions to witness this expression of international peace and solidarity, through friendly competition in sports. It would be a disaster for China if the games were to be marred by protests from concerned individuals and groups who will undoubtedly link your government to the continued atrocities in Darfur if there is no significant improvement in conditions there. Already there are calls to boycott what is increasingly being described as the 2008 "Genocide Olympics." As Sudan's single largest trading partner and the main beneficiary of their significant crude oil exports and construction contracts, we urge you to protect your country's image from being irredeemably tarnished, through association with a genocidal regime, for the purposes of economic gains.

Our primary objectives are to protect civilians in Darfur, end the violence, find a just resolution to the political conflict, and begin the long path to reconstruction and reconciliation. We hope China shares these objectives. The international community is stepping up to its responsibilities, but unless China does its part to ensure that the government of Sudan accepts the best and most reasonable path to peace, history will judge your government as having bank-rolled a genocide.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this important matter, and we look forward to your response.

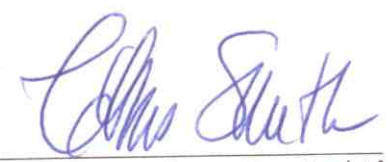
Sincerely,


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The Hon. Tom Lantos


The Hon. Frank R. Wolf


Donald M. Payne


Christopher H. Smith


Barbara Lee


Edward R. Royce


Vernon J. Ehlers

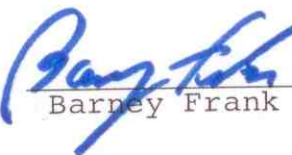

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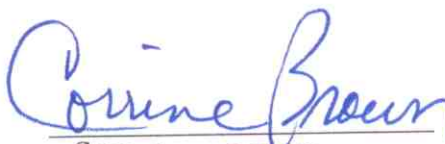

Michael R. McNulty

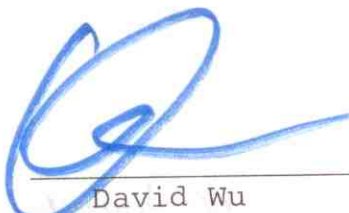

Bart Gordon

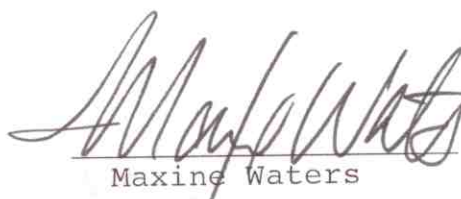

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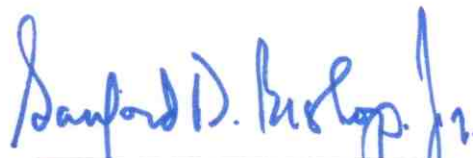

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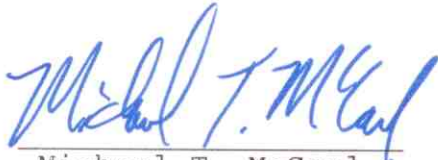

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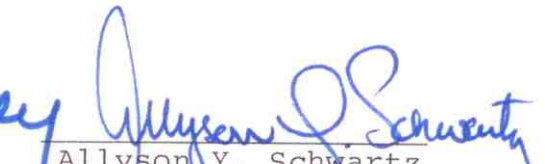

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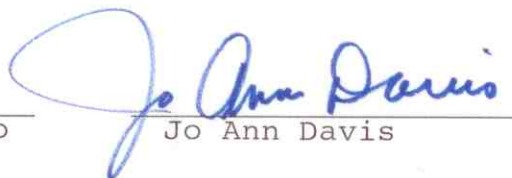

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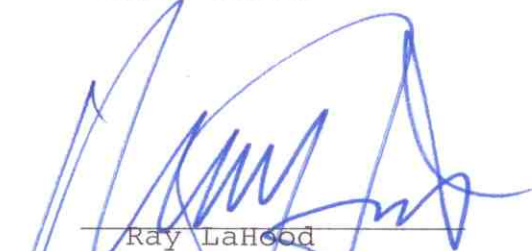

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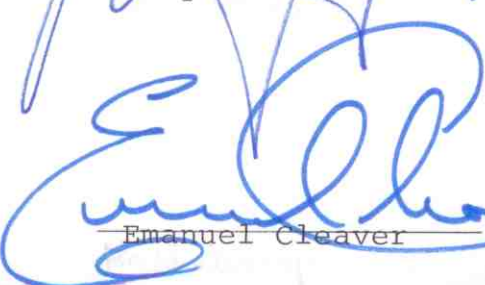

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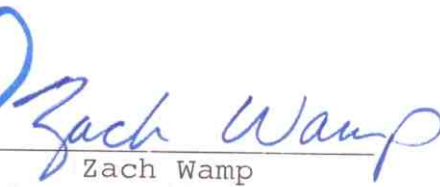

Russ Carnahan

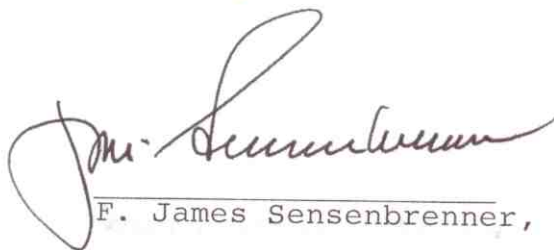

Michael M. Honda

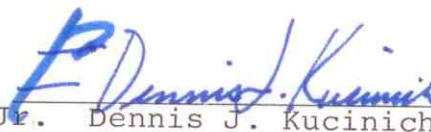

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cc. The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
The Secretary of State

The Honorable Clark T. Randt, Jr.
U.S. Ambassador to the People's Republic of China